

Isles are known from scattered localities throughout Great Britain, with the exception of *N. pubescens*, which has to date been recorded only from Cambridge and Suffolk. Dorset can be added to the range of this species as follows: Bere Woods (SY.87/94), ♂ 12.v.63, 2 ♂ 9.v.65, ♂ 20.v.67, ♀ 12.v.63 (Speight coll.). Only *Neocnemodon latitarsis* is known from Ireland (see Speight *et al.*, in press).

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## Some Subspecific and Infrasubspecific Names in *Pieris napi* L. (Lep.: Pieridae)

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The names of the yellow forms in British and Irish *Pieris napi* L. caused difficulty for years. Most of the more recent trouble dates from a note by J. A. Thompson (1952), or rather from E. A. Cockayne's editorial comments.

One group of forms can nowadays be got out of the way quickly: the rare sulphur- or lemon-yellow forms which occur in both sexes and genetically are recessive to wild type. In these yellow extends to the whole disc of the forewing underside. Although several alleles appear to be responsible, and the resulting phenotypes can usually be distinguished in fresh specimens, all are referable to *sulphurea* Schöyen (1885); the names *flava* Cockerell (1889), *hibernica* Schmidt (1913) and *citrona* Frohawk (1928) are synonyms.

Ochreous or tawny-yellow forms of varying depth, always confined to the female, in which the disc of the forewing underside almost invariably remains white, are not to be considered as aberrations. They occur all the time in parts of Ireland and Scotland and examples are easily bred from collected eggs. They are due to genes regularly present in the gene-pool of *P. napi britannica* Verity, as also in the gene-pools of north Scandinavian ssp. *adalwinda* Fruhstorfer and Alpine ssp.

*bryoniae* Ochsenheimer. The name usually given (e.g. Müller & Kautz 1939), *flava* Kane (1893), is best treated as that of an inconstant character of various populations, not that of a distinct individual aberration.

The alternative name *flavescens* Tutt (1896) employed in Howarth (1973), should be easily disposed of. First, it is probably not a name at all: it is not listed as such in Tutt's index, though "ab. *flava*, n. ab." is in the index and not in the text—these errors are not corrected in the 1905 edition. Tutt prefaced all infraspecific names with either "var." or "ab.", and (whenever he could) followed them with "n. ab.". The word *flavescens* (in italics) appears, without prefaced "ab.", under "ab. *sulphurea* Schöy.", and (if a name) would be a synonym of *sulphurea* applied to the female only. It is in any event antedated by *flavescens* Bohatsch (1893), the Austrian form characterising the subspecies usually known as *flavescens* Wagner (1903). This was given as an aberration of *P. napi* by Bohatsch; it really belongs to *P. (napi) flavescens* Wagner or a hybrid *bryoniae* population—thus certainly to the *P. napi* superspecies.

Of course, the International Code does not concern itself with infrasubspecific names, so we need not respect priority if the result of doing so is too silly. The application of the priority rule is particularly uncertain when we do not know whether the forms to which apparent synonyms or homonyms apply belong to the same species or not.

The name *flava* Edwards (1881), almost but not quite as untidily given as *flavescens* Tutt, refers to the not uncommon ochreous form of the female of the Californian subspecies *P. (napi) venosa* Scudder, which form is, probably genetically also, close enough to *flava* Kane to be regarded as identical. Some of the doubts expressed by Cockayne (1952) do seem excessive. *P. (n.) venosa* is usually considered conspecific with *P. napi*, though opinions could differ.

Perhaps one may continue to use for the ochreous female forms, where necessary, the quite unambiguous name *flava* Kane. Someone else may be able to decide whether *flava* Edwards is validly named; if so the author can be changed, should *venosa* be held conspecific with *napi*—though I doubt whether it matters very much, *flava* being, as I have said, a character rather than an aberration. But the supposed name *flavescens* Tutt is certainly to be rejected.

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The name *sabellicae* Stephens (1827) appears in Kloet and Hincks' *Check List of British Insects*, 11 (2), 2nd edition 1972, for the subspecies of *Pieris napi* L. occurring in southern England. The history of opinions about this name is given by Müller & Kautz (1939: 79-81).

In J. F. Stephens' *Illustrations of British Entomology, Haustellata*, Vol. 1, pages 20-22, appear:

- (1) A description of *Pontia Napi* Linné, which agrees with the English spring form of *Pieris napi*, stated to be not uncommon in all parts in the vicinity of the metropolis.
- (2) A description of *Pontia Napaeae* Esper, conjectured to be a large variety of *P. napi*: evidently in fact summer-brood *P. napi*.
- (3) *Pontia Sabellicae* Petiver, described as follows:

“Allied to *Po. Napi*, but dissimilar in form, the wings being shorter and more rounded: the anterior being nearly of the form of those of *Po. Cardamines*,—it has the upper surface of all the wings of a yellowish-white, with broad dusky irrorated nervures; broadest towards the hinder margin. . . . Beneath, all the wings are adorned with very broad dusky nervures, resembling those in [one form] of *Po. Napi*, but varying in different specimens; and the dilated nervure on the upper edge of the discoidal cell is destitute of the insulated yellow spot, which every specimen of *Po. Napi* that has passed under my examination possesses. I have long had two specimens of this insect—which agree with . . . the *Bryoniae* of Wallner [!] . . .”

Localities mentioned for *Po. Sabellicae* are Highgate Wood, Ripley and Battersea Fields. Since the description purports to differentiate *sabellicae* from the earlier-described commonly occurring English *napi*, it can hardly be available as the name of the latter, particularly as the distinctive characters mentioned (wing-shape, yellowish-white wing-colour, lack of the hindwing-underside orange streak) in no way characterise the English populations. Indeed the character most essential for Stephens, the wing-shape, is merely teratological. The survival of two Stephens specimens (labelled *sabellicae* by a later worker) would hardly affect the situation whether they agreed with the description or not; in fact the specimens in the British Museum (Nat. Hist.) do lack the orange lunule but in other respects conflict with the description.

The name *sabellicae* belongs to a figment which does not exist as a taxon: I am not the first to reach this conclusion. To put the case in general terms, we have an author recognising a previously known species *A. a.* and differentiating from it by description a sympatric supposed species *A. b.* It is illogical then to transfer the name *b.* to be that of the *A. a.* subspecies, when *A. b.* is found to represent only an indefinite chance combination of aberrant infrasubspecific characters.

Priority plus locality are not always enough to justify the use of a name for a subspecies, even when it is 150 years old. It is not to be maintained that anyone setting up a subspecies should use for it the name of the earliest published aberration from the area concerned, disregarding the author's intention and suppressing the inconvenient parts of his original description. Such a procedure would make *hibernica* Schmidt 1913 and (perhaps) *flava* Kane 1893 available for the Irish subspecies of *P. napi* (ssp. *britannica* Verity 1911).



No. We should revert to the unambiguous name *septentrionalis* Verity (1916, type-locality Westcliff-on-Sea) for the *P. napi* subspecies which inhabits southern England.

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## Roosting Behaviour of the Butterfly *Papilio demodocus* Esp. on the Kenya Coast

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We here give an account of a nightly roosting area of the common African tailless "swallowtail" *Papilio demodocus* which we were able to observe between 12th and 22nd August, 1974. The roost was situated on the Watamu Beach—Mida Creek road, near the village of Watamu, about 20 km. south-west of Malindi on the Kenya coast. The Mida Creek road is parallel to the shore and runs N.E.-S.W. It is separated from the shore by a row of houses each situated in a large garden usually with shrubs and trees and each designated a "plot".

The roosting area lay immediately beside the beginning of the drive to one of the plots under an area of trees separated from the road by a wide grass verge also with a few trees. The